

A large yellow rectangle occupies the top third of the slide.

An Assessment of the Health Needs of the Transgender Community in Montana

Anna von Gohren and Dr. Annie Sondag

Funded by Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

- In July 2010, President Obama tasked the Office of National AIDS Policy with developing the U.S. National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS), which has three primary goals:
 - Reducing the number of people who become infected with HIV
 - Increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV
 - Reducing HIV-related health disparities
- The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) passed the Resolution on Effectively Addressing the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Transgender Populations in February 2013.

National HIV Prevention Goals

- An “umbrella” term to describe someone who has a *gender identity*, *sex*, and/or *gender expression* that does not line up with the sex they were labeled with at birth (Teich, 2010).
- “While sex, gender, and sexual orientation are interrelated, they are also separate...Sex is an issue of anatomy, and gender is an aspect of identity, of self...Sexual orientation has to do with desire and arousal...” (Kammerer et al., 2001).

What is “transgender?”

- An estimate of the number of transgender people living in the state of Montana would range from 2,500 individuals to 10,000.



Size of Transgender Population

- “Transgender” is not a reporting option included in epidemiological data or the U.S. Census, so transgender individuals are often placed in the categories of MSM, homosexual, or heterosexual.
- According to Herbst et al. (2008), in 2002 California became the first state to collect epidemiological data regarding the transgender population by adding two options:
 - Female-to-Male (FtM)
 - Male-to-Female (MtF)

HIV Reporting in Trans* Community

- Most data has been collected on people who are “out.”
- HIV and STD rates in the community of sex workers are high, but little is known about non-sex workers.
- Most data is concentrated on the MTF population.
- Most data has been conducted in urban areas, but little has been collected on rural areas.

HIV/STD Research in the Trans* Community

- Limited access to health care professionals.
- Frontier culture fosters ideas of self-reliance, conservatism, distrust of outsiders, and values are placed on family and work effort.
- Discrimination from community members, medical providers, lack of community coping resources.

Potential Issues Specific to Montana

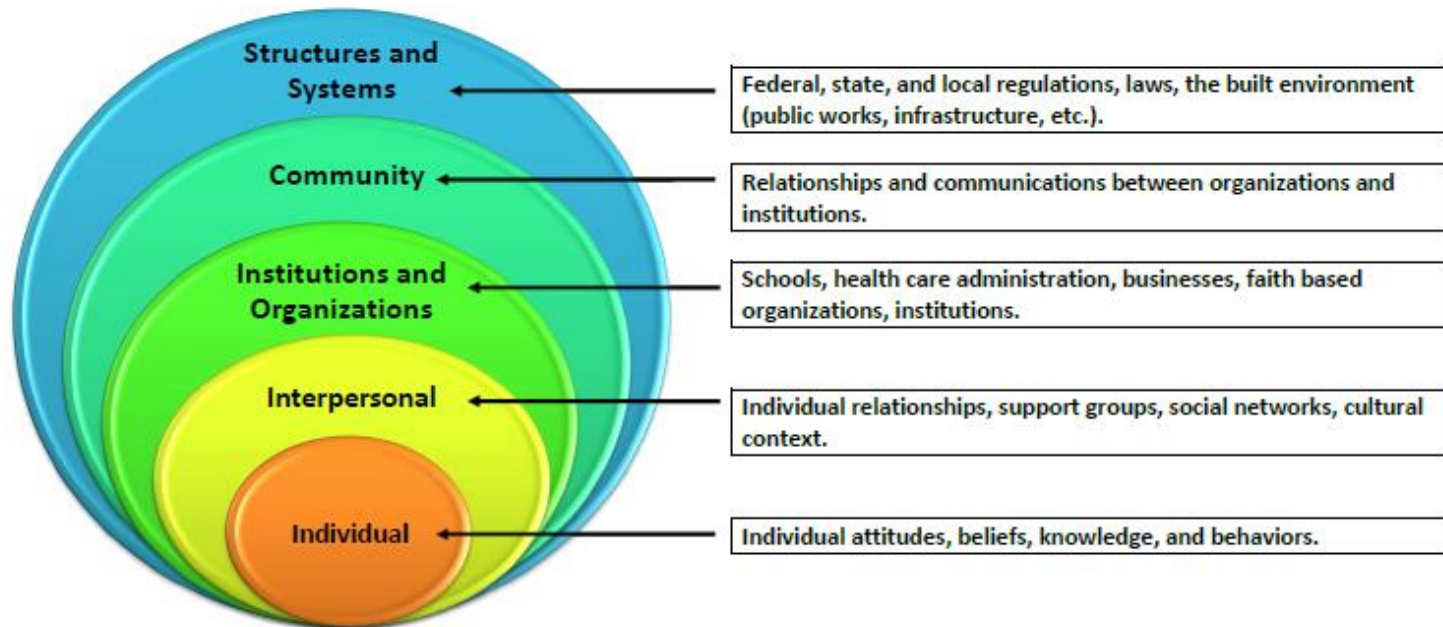
- There is no information in Montana regarding the status of transgender individuals who may be living with HIV/AIDS.
- Current research cannot be generalized to the entire transgender community.
- Project conforms with still-developing Transgender Theory
 - Emphasizes the importance of the lived experience of transgender individuals, as well as transcending social constructs of a binary gender system.

Significance

- Determine the contextual factors contributing to participation in risky behaviors that influence transgender individuals' potential of infection with HIV.
- Provide MTDPHHS with information regarding the transgender community in Montana.
- Inform the development of a survey to be administered statewide.

Purpose





Socio-Ecological Model

1. What are the *individual* factors that influence risk of infection?
2. What are the *interpersonal* factors that influence risk of infection?
3. What are the *institutional* factors that influence risk of infection?
4. What are the *community* factors that influence risk of infection?
5. What are the *public policy* factors that influence risk of infection?

Research Questions

- Based on Empowerment Theory
 - Learning comes from the community, not from the teachers
- Originally had ties to Feminist Theory
 - Women are authorities on their own lives
 - Develop women's relationship to power
- Documentary Photography
 - Well-intentioned, but with power disparities
- End goals:
 - Create an environment where self-defined concerns enter into discussions of policy
 - Foster a sense of creativity, control, and community

Photovoice Background

Photovoice:

- 3 meetings: introductions, regroup/provide new supplies, and follow-up;
- Participants provided with brief demographic questionnaire;
- Participants will be given 2 weeks to collect photographs, using the socio-ecological model as a guide;
- Photographs will be developed and returned to participants; and
- Individual interviews will be conducted with each participant regarding 3 to 5 photographs that they conclude to be the most important.
 - Semi-structured interviews

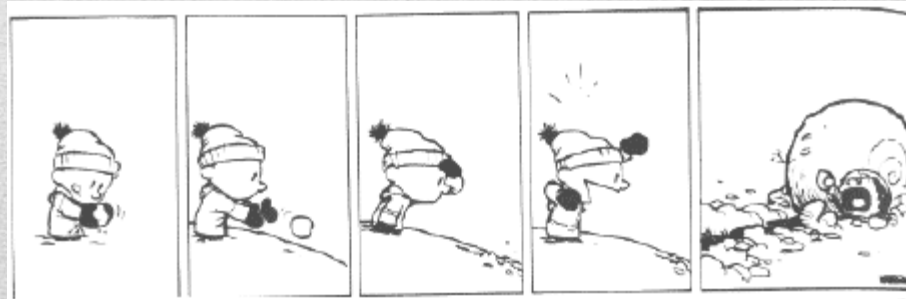
Methodology

Key Informant Interviews:

- Semi-structured interviews with:
 - Leaders in the transgender community;
 - Health professionals who work with the transgender community; and
 - Researchers who have been working with the transgender community.

Key Informant Interviews

- 8 to 15 photovoice participants
 - Attempt to include FtM, MtF, and gender nonconforming
- **# of key informants?**
- Identified through “gatekeepers” and then using snowball sampling



Participants

- Centers for Disease Control. (2013). *HIV Among Transgender People*. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/transgender/index.html.
- Creswell, J.W. (1998). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five traditions*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
- Herbst, J.H., Jacobs, E.D., Finlayson, T.J., McKelroy, V.S., Neumann, M.S., & Crepaz, N. (2008). Estimating HIV prevalence and risk behaviors of transgender persons in the United States: A systematic review. *AIDS and Behavior*, 12, 1-17.
- Kammerer, N., Mason, T., Connors, M., & Durkee, R. (2001). Transgender health and social service needs in context for HIV risk. In W. Bockting & S. Kirk (Eds.), *Transgender and HIV: Risks, prevention, and care* (39-57). Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press.
- Kenagy, G.P. (2005). Transgender health: Findings from two needs assessment studies in Philadelphia. *Health and Social Work*, 30 (1), 19-26.
- Nagoshi, J.L., & Brzuzy, S. (2010). Transgender theory: Embodying research and practice. *Journal of Women and Social Work*, 25 (4), 431-443.
- National Center for Transgender Equality. (2009). *Understanding transgender*. Retrieved from http://transequality.org/Resources/NCTE_UnderstandingTrans.pdf.
- The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). (2013). *Resolution on effectively addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in transgender population*. Retrieved from <http://aids.gov/federal-resources/pacha/meetings/2013/feb-2013-trans-resolution.pdf>.
- Teich, N.M. (2010). *Transgender 101: A simple guide to a complex issue*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- The White House Office of National AIDS Policy. (2010). *National HIV/AIDS strategy for the United States*. Retrieved from <http://aids.gov/federal-resources/national-hiv-aids-strategy/nhas.pdf>.
- Wang, C.C. (2013). *Background to the field: Photovoice, photovoice methodology, and participatory photography*. Retrieved from <http://www.photovoice.org/whatwedo/info/background-to-the-field>.

References

Questions?

